

**HIGH SCHOOL  
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM [S.I.T.]  
MEETING**

November 18, 2009

*Focusing on School Improvement*

- ☐ High School Goals Review
- ☐ August/September/October Review
  - Conducted a High School Faculty Survey
  - Attended recent APL Training (6); other teachers previously trained from the high school
  - Reading Apprenticeship Training (9)
    - Future: Reading Strategies for Mastering Secondary Content (8) *March 2, 2010*
  - Curriculum Collaboration (4)
  - Engaged in professional reading using *Readicide* by Kelly Gallagher
  - Collected information about department needs and priorities
  - Reviewed the District's strategic plan
  - Examined PDE's Standards Aligned System
- ☐ One Goal – School Improvement

**MINUTES**

Above is the agenda from Wednesday's high school, school improvement team/curriculum council meeting. This meeting was held as a subcommittee meeting of the district core curriculum council meeting, and was designed to focus solely on the needs of the high school.

The meeting began with a brief review of some of the ground work that has been laid in preparation for our focus on school improvement. Many of those items were items previously addressed during the September and October curriculum council meetings. Data has also been gathered from the first round of 4Sight testing, 2009 PSSA results, and faculty surveys.

Ms. Hutchinson shared with the group a general description of the concept of teaming as it pertains to plans for ninth grade next year in order to answer specific questions that had been raised. A general overview of teaming was described as two 4-person teams (core content area teachers), with each team having ½ of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. This team would be afforded additional time to plan and collaborate together to meet the instructional needs of their students, as well as address concerns that are typical to 9<sup>th</sup> graders, better ensuring their success. It was pointed out that teaming *could* include the practice of co-teaching if teachers involved desired that option. Integrated curriculum could also be a key component to team teaching as an avenue of reinforcing learning across curriculum areas.

The discussion of the ninth grade schedule lead to a discussion about the future schedule for all high school students. It was mentioned multiple times that teachers need time to collaborate. This is also evident in the results of the beginning-of-the-year faculty surveys that indicate specific goals including: time to collaborate, common planning time, time to meet as a department, professional development time, etc... Ms. Hutchinson described a schedule to the group that would include four periods in the morning, four periods in the afternoon, and a middle of the day activity period. This middle of the day period could be used for catching up students, clubs & activities, etc...

The group decided that two meetings per month would be appropriate to make reasonable progress on high school goals. The next two meetings will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup> after school in room 101 or the high school library. All high school teachers are invited to attend and be part of the school's improvement process!



*In a completely rational society, the best of us would aspire to be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something less, because passing civilization along from one generation to the next ought to be the highest honor and the highest responsibility anyone could have.*

-- Lee Iacocca